

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. The Office Action notes (on page 4) that the application is in condition for allowance except for various formal matters listed in the Office Action. Each of these formal matters is addressed below.

Consent of Assignee

The application is objected to under 37 CFR 1.172(a) as lacking the written consents of all assignees owning an undivided interested in the patent. The Office Action asserts that since the application has a new assignee, a new consent of the assignee is required in compliance with 37 CFR 1.172 and 3.73 in reply to the Office Action.

In response to this request, the current assignee, Lenovo (Singapore) PTE LTD, (the "Assignee") of the entire right, title and interest of U.S. Patent No. 6,259,432, submits herewith, a duly executed Consent of Assignee form in which the Assignee consents to the filing of the above-identified Reissue application No. 10/615,557 for the reissue of U.S. Patent No. 6,259,432. In addition, a statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is also submitted to establish the ownership interest of the Assignee in U.S. Patent No. 6,259,432. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Reissue Oath/Declaration

Claims 1-14 are rejected as being based on a defective Oath under 35 USC. 251 (and 37 CFR 1.175) for the reasons set forth in paragraph 2, page 2 of the Office Action. The Office Action asserts that a supplemental reissue oath/declaration under 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1) must be received before this reissue application can be allowed.

In response, the current Assignee respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's request to file a supplemental oath/declaration under 37 CFR 1.175(b)(1), and the

Assignee has been, and is currently attempting to locate and procure the signatures of all inventors listed in the original reissue Oath/Declaration filed with this application. In the event that some or all of the inventors refuse and/or cannot be found or reached to sign a supplemental oath/declaration, the Assignee will hereafter file a petition under 37 CFR 1.183 requesting waiver of the signature requirement of any and all non-signing inventors.

Foreign Priority

The Office Action notes (on page 3) that in order to claim foreign priority, a separate request for foreign priority must be separately submitted in this reissue application. In response, the current Assignee hereby submits a claim for foreign priority to Japanese patent application No. 9-216198, filed on 11/08/1997, which claim for foreign priority was duly asserted in the patent application which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,259,432 and for which Assignee is currently seeking reissue. This claim for foreign priority will be further asserted in due course in either a supplemental application data sheet or in a supplemental oath/declaration that will be filed hereafter.

Amendments in Reissue Application

The Office Action objects to manner in which claim amendments have been presented in current responses. In response, the claim amendment format submitted in this Response has been changed to show the claim amendments to original claims 6 and 8 using brackets for deleted limitation and underlines for added limitations, and newly added claims 9-14, which were added in this reissue application, are presented with fully underlined text. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

If there are any remaining issues, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank V. DeRosa/

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